

REMARKS

Claims 8–10, 12, 18–20, and 22 were pending in this application. Claims 12 and 22 were rejected. The Examiner indicated that claims 8–10 and 18–20 are allowed. With this reply, Applicants cancel claims 12 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, claims 8-10 and 18-20 remain pending.

Applicants canceled claims 12 and 22 only to expedite the issuance of the remaining claims and not in response to the Examiner's cited art. Applicants are not conceding in this application that canceled claims 12 and 22 are not patentable over the cited art. The present claim cancellations are made for the sole purpose of facilitating expeditious prosecution of the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Applicants submit that these claim amendments are sufficient to place all remaining claims in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by several different references. As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claims 12 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 12 and 22 are moot and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections of claims 12 and 22.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 8–10 and 18–20 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying this allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants assert that claims 8-10 and 18-20 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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